

SMITH HELMS MULLISS & MOORE, L.L.P.

Attorneys at Law

2800 Two Hannover Square
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
PO Box 27525 (27611)
(919) 755-8700



direct: 919-755-8713
fax: 919-755-8800
Mack.Paul@smithhelms.com

January 16, 2002

Renata Hcssc
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hcssc:

North Carolina's Attorney General recently agreed to the settlement that has been reached in the Microsoft antitrust case, and I hope the federal court will follow suit and allow this long-running matter to be put behind us.

I strongly believe the settlement provides adequate guarantees against illegal and unfair behavior by Microsoft. The settlement protects computer makers, software companies and consumers. The establishment of a technical committee to monitor Microsoft's compliance provides further protection.

It is my personal opinion that this proceeding has, from the beginning, been more competitor-driven than consumer-driven. The long history of Microsoft and its products has been one of better services and lower costs for consumers. Never has any consumer harm been proven in this lawsuit.

The government should now be satisfied that competitors will be protected against improper actions by Microsoft, thanks to this settlement.

Sincerely,

SMITH HELMS MULLISS & MOORE, L.L.P.

Mack Paul

MP/gn